

TOWN OF LUNENBURG MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER



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Town Manager

COVID-19 Update
December 8, 2020

UPDATES FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Here are a number of updates specific to Lunenburg that will also be posted on the town website, town Facebook page, the “townwide” listserv, sent to the Lunenburg Ledger and to Public Access:

COVID-19 in Lunenburg:

The Board of Health issued their weekly update and the cumulative laboratory confirmed number of COVID-19 cases reported to the Town is 243 as of December 4th and one death. The State report shows 219 as of December 1st. The COVID-19 Information Center page can be found [here](#).

UPDATES RECEIVED FROM THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNEMENT:

The Baker-Polito Administration continues to take steps to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts. A comprehensive list of emergency orders and guidance is available at mass.gov/covid19 (click [here](#)).

Rollback Announcement:

The Governor announced the following rollbacks today that will go into effect beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday December 13th: The Administration announced the roll-back to respond to an increase in new COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations since the Thanksgiving holiday that is straining the health care system in Massachusetts.

Statewide Rollback to Phase 3, Step 1: The entire Commonwealth will move to Phase 3, Step 1 of the Reopening Plan. In addition, the following updates to capacity limits will go into effect:

- Outdoor gatherings at event venues and public spaces to 50 people
- Outdoor Theaters and Performance Venues to 25% and no more than 50 people

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- Closure of Indoor Theaters and Performance Venues and a few smaller indoor recreation businesses like roller rinks and trampoline parks
- Reduce capacity from 50% to 40% for several industry sectors noted below:
 - Arcades/Indoor and Outdoor Recreational Businesses
 - Driving and Flight Schools
 - Gyms/Health Clubs
 - Libraries
 - Museums
 - Retail
 - Offices
 - Places of Worship
 - Lodging (common areas)
 - Golf
 - Movie theaters (no more than 50 people per theater)
- Operators of events hosting outdoor gatherings of greater than 25 people will be required to provide one week advance notice of the gathering to their local board of health.
- This new capacity limit will not apply to sectors that do not currently have a percentage-based capacity limit, including restaurants, laboratories and close contact personal services.

Restaurants and Event Venues Protocols Updates: The following updates will be made to restaurant and event venue protocols with regard to face coverings, seating, and performances

- Wear masks at all times except when eating and drinking
- Seat no more than six per table and encourage customers to only dine with same household
- Put a 90-minute time limit on tables
- Prohibit all musical performances at restaurants
- Closure of food court seating in malls

Workplaces and Fitness Centers Protocols Updates: The following updates will be made to the Office Spaces and Fitness Centers protocols with regard to face coverings

- Require mask wearing in offices when not in your own workspace and alone
- Require mask wearing at all times in gyms
- Encourage teleworking

All updates to sector specific guidance can be found on www.mass.gov/reopening later this week.

Helpful Links:

- **NEW:** [Get Back Mass](#)
- Mass.gov/holidays
- [Tips for a Safe Thanksgiving](#)
- Mass.gov/findfoodhelp
- [Stop the Spread](#)
- HandHoldMA.org
- [Reopening Massachusetts](#)
- Mass.Gov/covid19
- [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Unemployment & COVID-19](#)
- [Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal](#)
- [Emergency Childcare Site](#)
- [COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance](#)

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Resources:

MassSupport

MassSupport is the Massachusetts Crisis Counseling Program funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and managed in partnership between the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health and Riverside Trauma Center, a program of Riverside Community Care.

Contact MassSupport by phone at **888-215-4920** or by email at **MassSupport@riversideecc.org**

Red Cross Virtual Family Assistance Center

In order to provide support to families and communities who have suffered loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Red Cross has developed a Virtual Family Assistance Center (VFAC), staffed by a team of specially trained mental health, spiritual care, and health services volunteers who are:

- Connecting with families over the phone to offer condolences, emotional and spiritual support, and access to available resources
- Providing support for virtual memorial services for families, including connecting with local faith-based community partners
- Hosting online classes to foster resilience and facilitate coping skills
- Assisting families with access to national, state, or local resources such as grief counseling, legal resources, funeral information, financial information services, or veterans' assistance
- Additional state- and local-specific resources are available.

People can visit: <https://www.redcross.org/virtual-family-assistance-center/ma-family-assistance-center.html> to access this resource with special virtual programs, information, referrals, and services to support families in need. People without internet access can **call toll-free 833-492-0094** for help. All Family Assistance Center support will be provided virtually and is completely confidential and free.

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) now reports on the number of positive COVID-19 cases as reported to the DESE by school districts (including charter schools), collaboratives, and approved special education schools. The data only represents what has been reported to DESE. For more information and to view the report people can visit: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/positive-cases/>

COVID-19 Test Site Locator

MEMA, in conjunction with the COVID-19 Command Center, has developed an interactive map that shows the locations of COVID-19 testing sites around the Commonwealth: <https://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eba3f0395451430b9f631cb095febf13>

Massachusetts COVID-19 Response Dashboard

MEMA has developed and maintains a public-facing COVID-19 ArcGIS Online dashboard,

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available [here](#). This dashboard is continuously updated and captures information about current COVID 19 case counts, cases by age, cases by county, hospital status, hospital bed status, death tolls, and deaths by age. Users should refresh the dashboard daily as enhancements are continuously being added.

Health care facilities can learn more about **requesting personal protective equipment here**.

Stay Informed

- Visit <https://member.everbridge.net/index/406686158291020/#/signup> to sign-up for **AlertsMA** for the latest news on the Commonwealth's response to COVID-19
- Take care of your emotional health:
- Call 2-1-1 and choose the "CALL2TALK" option.
- Samaritans is continuing operations 24/7, as always. During this unprecedented time, it can feel overwhelming to receive constant messages about COVID-19. Call or text their 24/7 helpline any time at 877-870-4673.
- The Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990, is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year, national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster, including disease outbreaks like COVID-19. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents in the United States and its territories.